

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024342

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FOL REPEAT STATE 024342 SENT ACTION NAIROBI

LONDON INFO ADDIS ABABA DAR ES SALAAM FEB 03

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S E C R E T STATE 024342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: KENYAN REQUEST FOR US MILITARY TRAINING AND
ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) NAIROBI 741; (B)NAIROBI 199; (C) NAIROBI 10265;
(D) NAIROBI 10618

1. STATE AND DOD BELIEVE THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO
KENYAN REQUEST IS IN USG'S BEST INTEREST. TO THAT END,
SECRETARY HAS MADE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH FOLLOWING
ACTIONS:

A) DOD IS DRAWING UP AN IN-CONTINENTAL U.S. MAP TRAINING
PROGRAM BEGINNING IN FY 75 PROJECTED TO HAVE AN ANNUAL
VALUE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF DOLS. 50,000. SIMULTANEOUSLY
DEPT. IS PREPARING REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 024342

NEEDED TO AUTHORIZE FMS CREDIT AND MAP TRAINING IN FY

75 FOR KENYA.

B) FOR LONDON: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM FCO, AND IF APPROPRIATE MOD, OF KENYAN REQUEST FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND OF OUR INTENTION TO BE FORTHCOMING. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT BRITAIN'S TRADITIONAL ROLE AS MAJOR SUPPLIER TO KENYA OF

MILITARY TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE NO WISH TO SUPPLANT BRITAIN IN THIS RELATIONSHIP BUT, GIVEN MUCH LARGER GOK MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND GOK'S DIRECT APPROACH TO US FOR ASSISTANCE, WE FEEL THAT IT IS IN JOINT INTERESTS OF US AND UK TO BE RESPONSIVE. WE WISH TO DEVELOP OUR PROGRAM IN A FRAMEWORK OF FULL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE BRITISH. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF BRITISH WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A COPY, OR ALTERNATIVELY A COMPLETE RUN-DOWN, OF THEIR RECENT SURVEY OF KENYA'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND AN INDICATION OF THEIR CURRENT INTENTIONS TOWARD FILLING THOSE NEEDS.

C) FYI ONLY: EMBASSY TEHRAN IS BEING REQUESTED IN SEPTEL TO QUERY GOI ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF IRANIAN F5A'S, (WHICH GOI HAS INDICATED MAY BE SURPLUS TO ITS NEEDS), AND TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS OUR PROPOSALS FOR KENYA. THIS INITIATIVE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE KENYANS OR THE BRITISH UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING F5-A'S.

END FYI ONLY.

2. FOR NAIROBI: EMBASSY IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOK OF USG DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO KENYA'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITHIN APPLICABLE LEGISLATIVE, APPROPRIATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS. WE HAVE INITIATED CERTAIN REQUISITE INTERNAL ACTIONS TO PERMIT GREATER FLEXIBILITY OF RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH NOT YET IN A POSITION TO TALK SPECIFICS TO THE KENYANS, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM AGAIN AS SOON AS THESE INTERNAL ACTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 024342

3. FYI: WE WILL NOT BE READY TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT OR PRIORITIES WITH GOK UNTIL WE HAVE CLEARER PICTURE OF BRITISH SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTENTIONS AND OF POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING F-5A PACKAGE DRAWN FROM IRAN'S SURPLUS. WE WILL KEEP EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS. END FYI.

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